

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 LAGOS 01601 071405Z

53

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 NEA-10 IO-11 ISO-00 SAM-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-05 /099 W

----- 105424

R 071235Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3231

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABERONE

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

AMCONSUL KADUNA

S E C R E T LAGOS 1601

CAPETOWN FOR AMEMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 LAGOS 01601 071405Z

TAGS: PFOR, PDEV, PGOV, AO, NI, UK

SUBJECT: SIR MARTIN LE QUESNE ON ANGOLA

REF: A. LAGOS 1514 NOTAL B. LAGOS 685 NOTAL C. IBADAN 60 NOTAL

1. UK HIGH COMMISSIONER LE QUESNE CONFIRMED TO ME THIS MORNING THAT HE HAD INFORMED MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (MEA) OF UNITA'S REQUEST THAT FMG TELL NETO THAT UNITA WANTS GET TOGETHER WITH MPLA IN SOME KINE OF COALITION ARRANGEMENT (LAGOS 1514 NOTAL). LE QUESNE SAYS THAT FMG HAS AGREED MAKE SUCH AN APPROACH TO MPLA AND THAT FMG BELIEVES MPLA/UNITA RECONCILIATION IS A NECESSARY PRECONDITION TO WITHDRAWAL OF SOVIETS AND CUBANS FROM ANGOLA. ACCORDING LE QUESNE, FMG INCREASINGLY DISTURBED BY STUBBORNNESS NETO IS DISPLAYING WITH REGARD UNITA. SAVIMBI PERSONALLY IS ANATHEMA TO NETO BECAUSE OF HIS COLLABORATION WITH SOUTH AFRICA.

2. LE QUESNE SAYS FMG WORRIED THAT WITHDRAWAL OF SOVIETS AND CUBANS WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE WITHOUT PRIOR WITHDRAWAL OF SOUTH AFRICANS. LE QUESNE SHARES FMG CONCERN THAT SOUTH AFRICAN INTENTION REMAIN IN SOUTHERN ANGOLA RULES OUT EARLY DEPARTURE OF SOVIETS AND CUBANS. HE DOES NOT BELIEVE NETO WILL BE WILLING DISPENSE WITH SOVIETS AND PARTICULARLY CUBANS EVEN IF SOUTH AFRICAN PRESENCE LIMITED TO HYDRO ELECTRIC S TES. HE IS PERSONNALY OF BELIEF THAT SOUTH AFRICNAS SHOULD AGREE WITHDRAW ON CONDITION THEY GET AN MPLA GUARANTEE OF CONTINUED POWER DELIVERIES. FRELIMO'S ACCEPTANCE OF PREINDEP-  
ENDENCE CABORA BASSA ARRANGEMENTS MIGHT ENCOURAGE SOUTH AFRICAN CONFIDENCE IN SIMILAR PLEDGE BY MPLA. LE QUESNE READILY ADMITS, HOWEVER, THAT THE TWO CASES ARE HARDLY PARALLEL, AND HE DOUBTS SOUTH AFRICANS WOULD HAVE ANY FAITH THAT SUCH A BARGAIN WOULD BE KEPT.  
HE SAYS THAT FMG WANTS UK TO PRESS SOUTH AFRICANS TO WITHDRAW AND THAT UK WOULD BE WILLING BUT HAS VERY LITTLE LEVERAGE ON SOUTH AFRICA. U.S. HAS MUCH MORE, ACCORDING TO LE QUESNE, BUT IS UNWILLING TO USE IT. LE QUESNE BELIEVES SOUTH AFRICAN ENTRY INTO CENTRAL ANGOLA WAS A BLUNDER OF MAJOR PROPORTIONS THAT WILL SERIOUSLY JEOPARDIZE SOUTH AFRICA'S MOVES TOWARD DETENTE WITH ITS NEIGHBORS AND PRODUCE SEEDS OF VIOLENCE WITHIN SOUTH AFRICA'S BLACK MAJORITY. HE PROFESSES NOT TO UNDERSTAND "HOW THE DECISION COULD HAVE BEEN MADE WITHOUT ENCOURAGEMENT FROM  
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 LAGOS 01601 071405Z

THE USG." I SUGGESTED THAT THE PECULIAR CHARACTERISTICS OF SOUTH AFRICA'S CLOSED SOCIETY AND ITS SPECIAL PROBLEMS PRODUCED A UNIQUE CAPACITY FOR SELF-DELUSION. LE QUESNE SAID HE NONETHELESS HAD GREAT RESPECT FOR THE PRAGAMTISM AND CAUTION OF VORSTER, FOURIE AND MULLER, AND HE CONTINUED TO BE BAFFLED BY THE EXTENT TO WHICH SOUTH AFRICAN ANTIPATHY TO "SOVIET IMPERIALISM" HAD MOVED THEM TO ACT "AGAINST THEIR OWN INTERESTS."

3. AS FOR THE POSSIBILITY OF NIGERIAN TROOPS BEING SENT TO ANGOLA, LE QUESNE SAYS NIGERIAN MILITARY HAVE STUDIED THE FEASIBILITY OF THE IDEA AND HAVE CONCLUDED THAT DIFFICULTIES OF TRANSPORTATION AND LOGISTICS RULE IT OUT.

4. AS FOR UK HICOM VIEWS ON NEW NIGERIAN REGIME IN GENERAL, LE QUESNE ANTICIPATES INCREASING ACTIVISM AND RADICALIZATION OF FMG POSITIONS ON INTERNATIONAL ISSUES, PARTICULARLY IN SOUTHERN AFRICAN SECTOR. THIS WILL BRING MORE CONFRONTATION WITH U.S., UK AND EEC THEN DURING GOWON'S REGIME. RISING LEVEL OF ANTAGONISTIC RHETORIC CAN BE ANTICIPATED. MEA UNDER GARBA WILL BE MORE UNDER MILITARY REGIME'S DOMINATION THAN WAS CASE UNDER GOWON, WHEN ARIKPO AND PARTICULARLY JOE IYALLA COULD BE COUNTED ON FOR STRONG LEADERSHIP, HOWEVER UNPLEASANT. FOREIGN AFFAIRS STRONGMAN IN CURRENT FMG HIERARCHY IS BRIGADIER OBASANJO, WITH INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS INSTITUTE DIRECTOR AKINYEMI RATHER THAN GARBA OR MEA AS THE POWER BEHIND THE THRONE (SEE LAGOS 685 AND IBADAN 60 BOTH NOTAL). EMBASSY SHARES THIS ANALYSIS.

5. COMMENT: SIR MARTIN WAS FCO MAN FOR AFRICAN PRIOR TO ASSIGNMENT TWO YEARS AGO TO NIGERIA. WE HAVE FOUND HIS VIEWS ON AFRICAN PERCEPTIONS AND INTENTIONS GENERALLY SOUND.  
EASUM

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, INTERVENTION, FORM OF GOVERNMENT  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 07 FEB 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** coburnhl  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976LAGOS01601  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760047-1096  
**From:** LAGOS  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760272/aaaackya.tel  
**Line Count:** 138  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 LAGOS 1514  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** coburnhl  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 22 APR 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <22 APR 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <10 AUG 2004 by coburnhl>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SIR MARTIN LE QUESNE ON ANGOLA  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PDEV, PGOV, AO, NI, UK, UNITA, MPLA, (LE QUESNE, SIR MARTIN)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006